



Susan Bysiewicz
Secretary of the State
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BYSIEWICZ CLARIFIES STATE LAW REGARDING CAMPAIGN MATERIALS IN THE POLLING PLACE

SECRETARY OF THE STATE REASSURES VOTERS THAT NO RIGHTS WILL BE
DENIED; CAMPAIGN MATERIALS ARE PROHIBITED INSIDE THE POLLS

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today clarified state election laws regarding what types of campaign buttons or clothing can be worn or displayed by voters in the polling place on Election Day November 4th.

In response to many inquiries and chain e-mails circulating across the state, Secretary Bysiewicz is reminding voters that although no one can be prevented from voting if they wear a campaign button or shirt to the polls, Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-236 prohibits solicitation on behalf of any candidate or question within 75 feet of any polling place. This would prevent an individual from wearing a campaign button, t-shirt or hat into the polling place. However, once the individual removes the button or article of clothing from plain sight, the individual would be allowed to enter the polls and to vote. Once the individual leaves the polling place and the 75 foot restricted area, they could again wear the button or article of clothing.

“We want to make sure that voters are properly informed of their rights,” said Bysiewicz, “In interpreting the law, we also want to ensure that polling places remain neutral zones where voters can go and vote their conscience free of real or perceived intimidation. We understand that many voters feel passionate about the candidates they support and will want to express their opinions through their attire. This expression is protected by the Constitution, however it must be limited to areas outside the 75’ boundary for the polling place.”